

*Vows to continue fighting to protect 11 million children*

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Washington, D.C. –Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) applauded the U.S. House for its passage of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) which would cover 11 million children. The bill also clarifies that federal funds may not be used for children in the United States illegally.

**“The Passage of S-CHIP today and the promise of providing 11 million children with healthcare is proof that this Congress is prepared to tackle the tough economic realities that so many Americans face,”** said Congressman Tim Ryan. **“Millions of Americans are losing their jobs and healthcare, our children shouldn’t have to suffer because of a poor economic climate. Making sure that our children grow up healthy and prepared to compete in the global economy is the right thing to do.”**

The Bill includes provisions that:

**Ensure health care coverage for 11 million American children.** The bill renews and improves the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), reauthorizing it for four and a half years – through FY 2013. The bill ensures that the 7 million children who currently participate in SCHIP continue to receive coverage. It also extends coverage to 4 million uninsured children, according to the nonpartisan CBO.

**Improve care and strengthens funding.** The bill invests billions in new funding over five years in SCHIP in order to strengthen SCHIP's financing; increase health care coverage for low-income, uninsured children; and improve the quality of health care children receive.

**Improve SCHIP benefits – ensuring dental coverage and mental health parity.** Under the bill, quality dental coverage will now be provided to all children enrolled in SCHIP. The bill also ensures that states will offer mental health services on par with medical and surgical benefits covered under SCHIP.